

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, US

SUBJECT: FALCO-YUCELER MEETING, AUGUST 15: TURKISH POPPY
PRODUCTION

REF: ANKARA 5823

1. TURKISH MIN AGRIC YUCELER, ACCOMPANIED BY UNDER SECRE-
TARY TO PRIMIN DURAKOGLU AND TMO DIR GEN KABAKCI, CALLED
ON SENIOR ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR FOR INTN'L NARCOTICS CONTROL
FALCO AUG. 15 TO DISCUSS GOT'S PROGRAM TO CONTROL POPPY
PRODUCTION. MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE. YUCELER
SAID THE GOT HAS ONLY RECENTLY BECOME AWARE OF POPPY OVER-
PRODUCTION PROBLEMS, AND HAS UNDERTAKEN MEASURES TO REDUCE
TOTAL PRODUCTION (PARA 3). HE NOTED THAT TMO CURRENTLY
HAS 28,000 TONS OF POPPY CAPSULES ON HAND, WITH ANOTHER
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25,000 TONS EXPECTED FROM CURRENT CROP. HE INDICATED THAT
FOR FUTURE CROP YEARS, GOT WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO LIMIT
PRODUCTION TO 20,000 TONS, I.E. CAPACITY OF BOLVADIN
ALKALOID FACTORY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN AFYON, WHICH TURKS
EXPECT TO BEGIN OPERATION SOMETIME IN 1979. FOR THE TIME
BEING, HOWEVER, GOT FACES PROBLEM OF MARKETING POPPY
CAPSULES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER

LEGAL SUPPLIERS OF OPIATES, E.G. INDIA. YUCELER SAID TURKS WERE INTERESTED IN SELLING MORE OF THEIR POPPY CAPSULES

TO AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS, NOTING THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH REPS OF MALLINKRODT IN ST. LOUIS DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT.

2. IN RESPONSE, FALCO SAID THE U.S. HAS BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH TURKISH EFFORTS TO DATE TO CONTROL POPPY PRODUCTION AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN RESTRICTING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ILLICIT NARCOTICS. SHE NOTED THAT THE U.S. WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN INSURING A SATISFACTORY SUPPLY OF OPIATES FOR LEGITIMATE MEDICINAL PURPOSES, BUT NOTED THAT STRICT CONTROLS ARE IMPOSED OVER IMPORTATION OF NARCOTIC PRODUCTS BY AMERICAN COMPANIES. FROM CONTACTS WITH COMPANY REPS, DEPT KNEW THAT PRIMARY CONCERN OF PRIVATE FIRMS WAS PRICE OF OPIATE SUPPLIES. BECAUSE OF RELATIVELY HIGH COST OF SUPPLIES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET, AMERICAN FIRMS HAD URGED U.S. TO PERMIT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF BRACTEATUM POPPY, THEREBY REDUCING COST OF CODEINE TO CONSUMERS. FALCO OBSERVED THAT U.S. HAD RESISTED THESE ARGUMENTS AND DECIDED AGAINST DOMESTIC CULTIVATION OF BRACTEATUM POPPY IN ORDER NOT TO EXACERBATE SURPLUS IN WORLD SUPPLY OF OPIATES. U.S. HAS RECOGNIZED THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOT IN ADOPTING THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS AND HAS ENCOURAGED AMERICAN FIRMS TO PURCHASE POPPY CAPSULES
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FROM TURKS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

3. YUCELER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. DECISION ON BRACTEATUM POPPIES. HE EMPHASIZED DESIRE OF GOT TO BRING POPPY PRODUCTION LEVELS INTO BALANCE WITH WORLDWIDE DEMAND. HE THEN DESCRIBED MAIN POINTS OF NEW TURKISH DECREE ON POPPY PRODUCTION, WHICH SHOULD ENTER INTO FORCE SHORTLY. THE EFFECT OF THE NEW DECREE WILL BE TO LIMIT PRODUCTION TO ABOUT 20,000 TONS ANNUALLY. KEY FEATURES, AS DESCRIBED BY YUCELER, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-- ONLY ONE ADULT (OVER AGE 18) PER FAMILY UNIT (INCLUDING EXTENDED FAMILIES LIVING IN SAME HOUSEHOLD) WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FOR POPPY CULTIVATION. UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM, UP TO FIVE ADULTS PER FAMILY WERE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A PERMIT.

-- MAXIMUM AREA ALLOWED FOR CULTIVATION WILL REMAIN AT FIVE DECARES, BUT MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT WILL BE MADE ONLY TO "DESERVING" APPLICANTS, I.E. THOSE WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED GOOD RECORD OF COMPLIANCE AND ABILITY TO CULTIVATE SATISFACTORILY THAT AMOUNT OF LAND. OTHER APPLICANTS WILL

RECEIVE SMALLER ALLOTMENTS DOWN TO MINIMUM TWO DECARES.

-- NO RPT NO POPPY CULTIVATION WILL BE PERMITTED ON LEASED LAND, I.E. LICENSEE MUST GROW POPPIES ONLY ON LAND WHICH HE OWNS.

-- SLIDING-SCALE PRICE SYSTEM, ACCORDING TO QUALITY OF CAPSULES, WILL BE MAINTAINED. PREMIUM PRICE FOR WINTER CROP HAS BEEN INCREASED ONLY TWO LIRAS TO 25 TL, WHILE PREMIUM PRICE FOR SPRING CROP REMAINS 19 TL. BY HOLDING DOWN AMOUNT OF INCREASE IN TOP PRICE PAID, GOT HOPES TO REDUCE ECONOMIC ATTRACTIVENESS TO TURKISH FARMERS OF CULTIVATING POPPIES.

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IN CLOSING, YUCELER SAID THAT ONCE NEW DECREE GOES INTO EFFECT, LIMITING ANNUAL POPPY CROP TO CAPACITY OF TURKISH ALKALOID PLANT, HE FELT GOT WOULD NOT RPT NOT FACE PROBLEMS IN MARKETING PRODUCT. HE INDICATED GOT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN NARCOTICS MATTERS.
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